

	males	78.0 ± 2.2 (74.0–83.0) (26)	80.3 ± 3.0 (75.0–86.0) (25)	27.0 ± 0.7 (26.0–28.5) (25)	15.0 ± 0.5 (14.0–16.0) (23)	28.5 ± 1.3 (27.0–30.0) (4)
	females	74.3 ± 2.6 (69.0–79.0) (28)	76.4 ± 3.4 (69.0–82.0) (27)	26.7 ± 0.8 (25.5–28.0) (29)	15.2 ± 0.7 (14.0–16.5) (30)	–
<i>A. s. schistaceus</i> West Andes	males	80.0 ± 1.7 (78.0–81.0) (3)	83.2 ± 1.3 (82.0–84.5) (3)	27.0 ± 0.5 (26.5–27.5) (3)	15.3 ± 0.8 (14.5–16.0) (3)	30.0 ± 0.0 (1)
<i>A. s. schistaceus</i> Central Andes	all	75.6 ± 1.5 (73.0–78.0) (8)	78.2 ± 2.6 (74.5–82.0) (8)	26.4 ± 1.1 (24.5–27.5) (6)	15.0 ± 0.7 (14.0–16.0) (6)	28.3 ± 0.4 (28.0–28.5) (2)
	males	76.5 ± 2.1 (75.0–78.0) (2)	78.5 ± 2.1 (77.0–80.0) (2)	27.0 ± 0.0 (1)	14.5 ± 0.0 (1)	–
	females	75.0 ± 2.0 (73.0–77.0) (3)	78.7 ± 3.5 (75.0–82.0) (3)	25.8 ± 1.3 (24.5–27.0) (3)	15.0 ± 1.0 (14.0–16.0) (3)	–
<i>A. s. schistaceus</i> East Andes	all	76.1 ± 3.1 (68.0–83.0) (46)	78.7 ± 3.7 (72.0–87.0) (45)	26.8 ± 0.8 (25.0–28.5) (48)	15.1 ± 0.5 (14.0–16.0) (46)	28.0 ± 3.0 (23.5–34.0) (8)
	males	78.0 ± 2.2 (74.0–83.0) (20)	80.2 ± 3.2 (75.0–86.0) (19)	27.0 ± 0.8 (25.5–28.5) (20)	15.0 ± 0.5 (14.0–15.5) (18)	28.0 ± 1.0 (27.0–29.0) (3)
	females	74.6 ± 2.4 (71.0–78.0) (19)	76.7 ± 2.9 (72.0–82.0) (18)	26.5 ± 0.6 (25.5–28.0) (20)	15.2 ± 0.7 (14.0–16.5) (21)	27.8 ± 5.5 (23.5–34.0) (3)
<i>Atlapetes leucopterus leucopterus</i>	all	66.5 ± 2.5 (62.0–71.0) (10)	59.8 ± 4.4 (55.0–65.0) (10)	25.8 ± 1.6 (23.0–27.5) (10)	15.6 ± 0.8 (14.5–17.0) (10)	–
<i>Atlapetes leucopterus dresseri</i>	males	65.5 (62.5–69.0) (12)	64.5 (61.0–69.0) (12)	24.4 (23.5–25.8) (12)	–	22.9 (20.7–26.0) (7)
	females	62.7 (57.5–65.0) (10)	62.3 (58.0–66.5) (10)	24.2 (23.3–24.7) (10)	–	22.5 (19.0–26.1) (7)
<i>Atlapetes leucopterus paynteri</i>	males	69.7 (67.5–72.0) (5)	72.0 (68.5–76.5) (5)	25.5 (25.0–26.3) (5)	–	24.6 (23.0–26.5) (4)
	females	66.8 (66.5–67.0) (2)	69.5 (68.2–70.8) (2)	25.8 (25.0–26.5) (2)	–	25.4 (25.0–25.8) (2)

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## Stabilising the nomenclature of Australasian birds by invalidation and suppression of disused and dubious senior names

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In attempting to accept or reject 19 disused names for Australian birds, McAllan (2007) has made serial errors and omissions of fact, interpretation and procedure that, if not corrected promptly, will disrupt the nomenclature of the taxa involved. McAllan's actions are based on Art. 23.9, 'reversal of precedence', of the current

(fourth) edition of the *International code of zoological nomenclature* (hereafter the Code; ICZN 1999). This new article empowers individual revisers to suppress disused senior synonyms under specified conditions to avert nomenclatural disruption.

The Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Committee (SCON) has a particular interest in the names addressed by McAllan. It had earlier initiated steps to suppress all disused non-passerine names, as well as to (1) protect *Menura novaehollandiae* Latham for the Superb Lyrebird (Menuridae), (2) support the now widely used spelling *Xanthomyza* for the generic name of the Regent Honeyeater (Meliphagidae), and (3) reject the generic names *Atricha* Gould and *Aplornis* Gould for the scrub-birds (Atrichornithidae) and glossy starlings (Sturnidae) in respective favour of the long-established *Atrichornis* Stejneger and *Aplonis* Gould (Schodde & Bock 1997). Concerning the third issue, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (the Commission) had recommended a case by case consideration of individual names, a procedure followed here.

Our approach is based on principles laid down in the cornerstone of the Code, its Preamble, particularly with respect to long-accepted names in their accustomed meaning. Names in contention are addressed in order of their treatment by McAllan (2007), for ease of cross-referencing, except that all non-passerines are grouped ahead of passerines. The terms Art. and Arts. refer to numbered regulations in the fourth edition of the Code. Scientific names follow Dickinson (2003) and English names Gill & Wright (2006). The date of Latham's *Supplementum Indicis ornithologici*, often cited today as 1802, is given as 1801 for reasons explained under *Menura novaehollandiae* Latham. Numbers against cases submitted to the Commission for decision have been allotted by the Commission.

### Non-passerine names

Except for one name (*Pedionomus* Gould), McAllan's (2007) treatment of non-passerine names was reinterpreted from cases explained by Schodde & Mason (1997). On the presumption that the Commission would ratify them, and keeping to usage under Art. 82.1, Schodde & Mason had adopted decisions taken by the SCON to seek variable suppression of all senior disused names involved. The SCON took those decisions at its meeting at the 21st International Ornithological Congress (IOC), Vienna, in August 1994. Contrary to McAllan, the cases were referred to the Commission on 8 February 1997 but were never published because many of the disused names were amenable to disposal under Art. 23.9 of the then imminent fourth edition of the Code. Nevertheless, as shown by McAllan, a number cannot be so set aside; and these have since been resubmitted to the Commission for suppression (Schodde & Bock submitted, Cases 3415, 3418).

Those disused senior names, *nomina oblita*, that can be invalidated under Art. 23.9 are the genus-group names *Lophorynchus* Swainson, 1837 (Columbidae) and *Cackatto* Lauder & Brown, 1833 (Cacatuidae), and the species-group names

*Psittacus multicolor* Gmelin, 1788 (Psittacidae), *Cuculus striatus* Drapiez, 1823, *C. tenuirostris* Boie, 1828, *C. barbatus* Boie, 1828, *C. assimilis* Brehm, 1843, and *Sylvia versicolora* Latham, 1801 (Cuculidae)—see Table 1. To our knowledge, none has been used as valid since 1899, meeting the first set of specifications for invalidation under Art. 23.9.1.1. In attempting to reject them against in-use junior names as well, McAllan (2007) did not satisfy the second set of specifications stipulated in Arts. 23.9.2 and 23.9.1.2. These articles require that a junior, in-use synonym threatened by a disused name can only be retained if ‘evidence’ is given that it has been used as valid ‘in at least 25 works, published by at least 10 authors in the immediately preceding 50 years and encompassing a span of not less than 10 years’. McAllan’s casual response, that the relevant junior names had been ‘in regular use in the last 50 years’, is not sufficient as evidence. Table 1 below instead satisfies the requirements of Arts. 23.9.2 and 23.9.1.2 for these names, now *nomina protecta*; thus precedence from the threatening senior synonyms lapses herein.

*Psittacus hypopolius* J. R. Forster, 1794 (Psittacidae) can be deposed as the senior name for the Norfolk Parakeet *Cyanoramphus cookii* (G. R. Gray, 1859) under Art. 23.9, though not as argued by McAllan (2007). It was introduced for ‘einen grossen, grünen Papagay’ described from Norfolk Island on James Cook’s second voyage to the Pacific. There is no surviving type material (Whitehead 1969), and Forster’s sketchy description is ambiguous (Schodde 1997a: 217), applying partly to the *large but multi-coloured* Norfolk Kaka *Nestor productus* (Gould, 1836) and partly the *green but small* Norfolk Parakeet. McAllan identified it with the latter (as *cooki, sic*), yet he again did not satisfy Art. 23.9.1.2, nor did he fix the taxonomic application of *hypopolius* J. R. Forster unambiguously. Unambiguous fixation is necessary because Mathews (1943, 1946) had already used *hypopolius* for the now-extinct Kaka, opening the identity of the name to argument and threatening the already established name, *productus* Gould, for the Kaka. We have since discovered that Forster based *Psittacus hypopolius* on a mixtum of collected specimens of *Nestor meridionalis meridionalis* (J.F. Gmelin, 1788) and uncollected specimens of *N. productus*. Clearly, he identified his large “green” parrot on Norfolk Island with the Kaka of New Zealand’s South Island. We shall now take steps to lectotypify or neotypify the name with material of *Nestor meridionalis meridionalis* to ensure that it does not displace *Nestor productus* (Gould, 1936).

*Columba norfolciensis* Latham, 1801 (Columbidae) from Norfolk Island was treated as a *nomen dubium* by McAllan (2007) who left its status unresolved and potentially available for reapplication. His interpretation focused on Hindwood’s (1965: 92) and Schodde’s (1997b: 62) finding that the name was based on sketchy descriptions of two species of uncertain identity, one a possible member of the ground dove genus *Gallicolumba* now extinct, and the other perhaps the Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* (Linnaeus, 1758) which still survives on the island. There is no known type material, but the description of the presumed

*Gallicolumba* could have been based on a drawing by John Hunter (Hindwood 1965). McAllan's suggestion that the name could be fixed by neotypifying the Hunter figure—or, correctly, the specimen represented by it (Art. 72.5.6)—is unsatisfactory because that figure cannot be matched with certainty to any known species, extant or extinct. It could even represent a vagrant White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* Temminck, 1821, from Australia, a species for which *norfolciensis* Latham was used for much of the 20th century (e.g. RAOU Checklist Committee 1926, Peters 1937). Alternatively, Sibley & Monroe (1990) applied *norfolciensis* tentatively to *Chalcophaps indica*, based on the second species in the original description. Such diverse and confusing uses, not mentioned by McAllan, originally led the SCON and Schodde (1997b: 62) to advocate suppression of *norfolciensis* Latham. Accordingly, we have again applied to the Commission to do so (Schodde & Bock submitted, Case 3415).

***Columba picata* Latham, 1801, *Geopelia tranquilla* Gould, 1844, and *Columba argetraea* J. R. Forster, 1794** are three disused senior names of pigeons and doves (Columbidae) that were reintroduced by McAllan (2007) to replace the widely used species-group names *melanoleuca* Latham, 1801, *placida* Gould, 1844, and *spadicea* Latham, 1801, for the Australian Wonga Pigeon, Peaceful Dove and Norfolk Island race of the fruit pigeon *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae* (Gmelin, 1789). Here the disused names cannot be invalidated under Art. 23.9.1.1 because all have been employed sporadically into the 20th century (McAllan 2007). Followed by Schodde (1997b), the SCON nevertheless proposed their suppression and has approved reapplication to the Commission to do so (Schodde & Bock submitted, Cases 3415, 3418) for the following reasons. The basis for seniority of *picata* over *melanoleuca* and *tranquilla* over *placida*, both pairs of names published simultaneously by the same authors, is a simple regulatory shift in nomenclatural practice, from page precedence in the early 20th century to choice by first reviser (Art. 24). Yet *melanoleuca* and *placida*, long accepted for two common and familiar Australian pigeons, have become entrenched and used consistently and prevalently in literature dealing with Australian birds since the 1910s, in up to several hundred works or more, by scores of authors within the last 50 years alone. Replacing them with *picata* and *tranquilla* respectively, names unknown at species level today, would clearly upset stability and usage in nomenclature, contrary to the intent of the Code (Art. 23.2; Preamble; Principle 4, Introduction).

Although *spadicea* Latham has been employed for the extinct Norfolk Island fruit pigeon in barely 20 reference works in the last 50 years, its senior competitor, *argetraea* J. R. Forster has been used as valid in just four: Iredale (1937), who unearthed it, McAllan (2007), and Mathews (1943, 1946). Moreover, *argetraea* J. R. Forster was published in an obscure journal, along with other Forster papers in which disused senior names of Australian birds have already been suppressed by Opinion 410 of the Commission. In contrast, *spadicea* Latham continues to be used consistently, not only in Australasian handbooks, checklists and conservation



manuals (Schodde *et al.* 1983, Checklist Committee OSNZ 1990, Higgins & Davies 1996, Schodde & Mason 1997, Garnett & Crowley 2000, Holdaway *et al.* 2001, Clayton *et al.* 2006), but also in major global monographs and checklists (Peters 1937, Goodwin 1967 and subsequent editions, Baptista *et al.* 1997, Dickinson 2003, Steadman 2006). Keeping *spadicea* Latham helps maintain the nomenclatural currency of all these major reference works.

***Pedionomus* Gould, 1840.** McAllan's (2007) case for suppressing the last non-passerine name, *Pedionomus ocellatus* Gould, 31 October 1840, for the Australian Malleefowl (Megapodiidae), is inadmissible. It fails to satisfy Arts. 23.9.2 and 23.9.1.2 for the junior competing names, *Leipoa ocellata* Gould, 1 December 1840 (Malleefowl), and *Pedionomus* Gould, 1 December 1840 (Plains-wanderer), the date of which McAllan misquotes. Nor does it meet Art. 23.9.1.1. *Pedionomus ocellatus* Gould, October 1840, has, in fact, been used for the Malleefowl since 1899, by Bruce & McAllan (1990) who listed it as valid in their Appendix 1 and stated (p. 457): 'Therefore the Mallee Fowl should become *Pedionomus ocellatus* Gould, 1840'. This action is particularly destructive nomenclaturally because *Pedionomus* Gould, October 1840, preoccupies the long-accepted *Leipoa* Gould, December 1840, for the Malleefowl in seniority, and also *Pedionomus* Gould, December 1840, for the Plains-wanderer (Pedionomidae) in homonymy: it would require change in the universally used generic name for the Plains-wanderer from *Pedionomus* to *Turnicigralla* Des Murs, 1845. Accordingly, we have applied to the Commission to suppress *Pedionomus* Gould, October 1840, for the Malleefowl (Schodde & Bock submitted, Case 3415).

## Passerine names

***Menura superba* Davies, 1802** vs. *Menura novaehollandiae* Latham, 1801, for the Superb Lyrebird (Menuridae) turns not on Art. 23.9 but the date of publication of Latham's latinised *Supplementum Indicis ornithologici* (Latham 1801a), either 1801 as printed on the title page, or 1802 according to some external evidence (Browning & Monroe 1991). If 1802 is accepted (=either 1 April 1802 or 31 December 1802 under Art. 21.3), then *Menura superba* Davies, 5 June 1802, could displace the now well-established *Menura novaehollandiae* Latham, 1801, for this species (Schodde & Mason 1999: 63).

Browning & Monroe's (1991) case for 1802 rested on three indirect coincidences affecting the companion work, *Supplement II to the General Synopsis of Birds* (1801b), in which the new species in the Latin *Supplementum* are described in English. First, the Latin *Supplementum* gives page references to the names in the English *Supplement II*, not the reverse. Thus it could not have been typeset until page proofs of the English work were available, and so was presumably printed and issued no earlier. It is likely, in fact, that the texts of both works were produced together because we have found that they were printed on the same paper with the same watermark (1800) in the same position on the pages. Secondly, only 250

copies of the English work were released (from Latham 1821, p. vi, footnote), indicative of a single issue. Thirdly, the English work was first demonstrated to be in existence when Latham presented it to the Royal Society on 1 April 1802, in accord with its date recorded in the donation lists of the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* (Anon. 1802a) and *Transactions of the Linnean Society* (Anon. 1802b). So Browning & Monroe reasoned that if the single issue of the English *Supplement II* did not appear until 1802, neither did the Latin *Supplementum*.

Yet the connection between the two works and 1802 is entirely circumstantial, and beset with inconsistencies. First, the plates of the vernacular *Supplement II* are dated 30 May 1801, although this is the date of printing, not release with the text. Secondly, copies of the English *Supplement II* have been found with different dates, either 1801 (five seen) or 1802 (two), whilst the figure of the Maned Duck *Chenonetta jubata* on the title page is coloured in those with 1801 and black and white in those with 1802. Thus there were at least two issues of the work, breaking the nexus between the Latin *Supplementum* and a single issue of the English *Supplement II* supposedly no earlier than 1 April 1802, its date of receipt by the Royal Society. Thirdly, the London publisher (Leigh, Sotheby & Son), not Latham, managed and distributed the Latin *Supplementum* and English *Supplement II* (Latham, 1821, p. vi, footnote), and was free to issue them at any time once they were printed. Living in Winchester, Latham received the copies that he donated to such bodies as the Royal and Linnean Societies only indirectly, and, making less frequent visits to London at the time (Latham *loc. cit.*, footnote), he could well have passed them on some months later than releases by the publisher.

Evidence for a date other than the 1801 specified in the Latin *Supplementum* thus hardly meets the levels of proof required in combined English and French versions of Art. 21.2 which fixes date of publication. Even so, we have requested the Commission for a ruling on the date because 1802 has come into increasing use in the last decade and because English and French versions of Art. 21.2 are open to differing interpretation (Art. 87), with potential to keep argument over the date of the Latin *Supplementum* alive (Schodde *et al.* submitted, Case 3414). In the interim, we recommend use of 1801 as the date of publication for the Latin *Supplementum* because, (1) in the spirit of Art. 82.1, it is still in wide use, and (2) we anticipate that the Commission will find, on the information available, that evidence for 1802 is insufficient. Keeping 1801 establishes the seniority of *Menura novaehollandiae* Latham, 1801.

***Xanthomyza* Swainson, 1837**, is an emended spelling (Art. 33.2.1) of the generic name *Zanthomiza* Swainson, 1837, for the threatened Regent Honeyeater (Meliphagidae). It was introduced into current international literature by Salomonsen (1967: 436) and to Australian literature by Condon (1968), and it has been used almost universally since, in journal papers and field lists, checklists, handbooks, atlases, field guides and conservation action plans approaching several hundreds. Notwithstanding use of *Xanthomyza* by Strickland in 1841, Swainson's

TABLE 1

Disused senior synonyms and spellings of some Australasian birds that should be deposited under Arts. 23.9 and 33.2/3 of the *International code of zoological nomenclature* (fourth edn.), together with competing in-use junior synonyms and spellings with supporting references. Sequence of names follows the order in the text.

Disused senior synonyms ( <i>nomina oblita</i> ) and spellings	In-use junior synonyms ( <i>nomina protecta</i> ) and spellings	References validating the in-use junior name or spelling detail under Arts. 23.9.2 and 33.2.3.1/33.3.1, respectively	English names
<i>Lophorynchus</i> Swainson, 1837	<i>Lopholaimus</i> Gould, 1841	Baptista <i>et al.</i> 1997, Beruldsen 2003, Blakers <i>et al.</i> 1984 and references therein, Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Christidis & Boles 1994, Condon 1975, Dickinson 2003, Frith 1982, Gill & Wright 2006, Goodwin 1967, Higgins & Davies 1996 and references therein, Schodde 1997b and references therein, Schodde & Tidemann 1986, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Simpson & Day 1999, Wolters 1975–82, references to <i>Lopholaimus</i> in the journal <i>Emu</i> since 1957	Topknot Pigeon (genus)
<i>Cackatto</i> Lauder & Brown, 1833	<i>Eolophus</i> Bonaparte, 1854	Beruldsen 2003, Brown & Toft 1999, Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Cooke <i>et al.</i> 2004, Dickinson 2003, Forshaw 1969, 1978, 1981, 2002, 2006, Garnett & Crowley 2000, Gill & Wright 2006, Higgins 1999, Holyoak 1970, 1972, Homberger 1991, Howard & Moore 1994, Joshua & Parker 1993, Juniper & Parr 1998, McAllan 2007, Rowley 1997, Schodde 1989, 1997c, 2006a,b, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Simpson & Day 1999, Stanger <i>et al.</i> 1998, Wolters 1975–82	Galah (genus)
<i>Psittacus multicolor</i> Gmelin, 1788	<i>Psittacus moluccanus</i> Gmelin, 1788, usually as <i>Trichoglossus haematodus</i> <i>moluccanus</i> (Gmelin)	Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Condon 1975, Dickinson 2003, Forshaw 1969, 1978, 1981, 2002, 2006, Gill & Wright 2006, Higgins 1999 and references under <i>T. h. moluccanus</i> therein, Howard & Moore 1994, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature Direction 82—Melville & Smith 1987, Juniper & Parr 1998, Lendon 1973, McAllan 2007, Schodde 1997a and references under <i>T. h. moluccanus</i> therein, Simpson & Day 1999, Stanger <i>et al.</i> 1998, Wolters 1975–82, references to <i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i> in the journal <i>Emu</i> 1957–75	Rainbow Lorikeet
<i>Cuculus striatus</i> Drapiez, 1823	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i> Hodgson, 1843	Blakers <i>et al.</i> 1984 and references to <i>C. saturatus</i> therein, Christidis & Boles 1994, Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Condon 1975, Dickinson 2003, Gill & Wright 2006, Higgins 1999 and references to <i>C. saturatus</i> therein, Johnstone & Storr 1998, Mason 1997 and references to <i>C. saturatus</i> therein, Morecombe 2003, Payne 1997, Schodde & Tidemann 1986, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Simpson & Day 1999, Wolters 1975–82, references to <i>C. saturatus</i> in the journal <i>Emu</i> since 1970	Oriental Cuckoo
<i>Cuculus tenuirostris</i> Boie, 1828	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i> Hodgson, 1843	as above	Oriental Cuckoo

<i>Cuculus barbatus</i> Boie, 1828	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i> Hodgson, 1843	as above	Oriental Cuckoo
<i>Cuculus assimilis</i> Brehm, 1843	<i>Cuculus saturatus</i> Hodgson, 1843	as above	Oriental Cuckoo
<i>Sylvia versicolora</i> Latham, 1801	<i>Cuculus basalis</i> Horsfield, 1821, usually as <i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i> (Horsfield)	Beruldsen 2003, Blakers <i>et al.</i> 1984 and references under <i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i> therein, Christidis & Boles 1994, Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Condon 1975, Dickinson 2003, Gill & Wright 2006, Higgins 1999 and references under <i>Chrysococcyx basalis</i> therein, Mason 1997 and references under <i>Chalcites basalis</i> therein, Payne 1997, Schodde & Tidemann 1986, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Simpson & Day 1999, Wolters 1975–82, references to <i>Chrysococcyx</i> or <i>Chalcites basalis</i> in the journal <i>Emu</i> since 1957	Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo
<i>Psittacus hypopolius</i> J. R. Forster, 1794	<i>Platycercus cookii</i> G. R. Gray, 1859, as <i>Cyanoramphus cookii</i> (G. R. Gray)	Boon <i>et al.</i> 2001, Checklist Committee OSNZ 1990, Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Collar 1997, Dickinson 2003, Forshaw 1978, 1981, 2002, 2006, Fortescue <i>et al.</i> 1999, Garnett & Crowley 2000, Gill & Wright 2006, Hermes <i>et al.</i> 1986, Hicks & Greenwood 1990, Higgins 1999 and references under <i>C. novaezelandiae cookii</i> therein, Howard & Moore 1994, Juniper & Parr 1998, Lane <i>et al.</i> 1998, McAllan 2007, Ovington 1978, Phipps 1981, Schodde 1997a, Schodde <i>et al.</i> 1983, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Stanger <i>et al.</i> 1998, Steadman 2006, Wolters 1975–82	Norfolk Parakeet
<i>Zanthoniza</i> Swainson, 1837	<i>Xanthomyza</i> Swainson, 1837	Beruldsen 2003, Blakers <i>et al.</i> 1984 and references under <i>Xanthomyza</i> therein, Christidis & Boles 1994, Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Condon 1968, Dickinson 2003, Garnett & Crowley 2000 and references under <i>Xanthomyza</i> therein, Gill & Wright 2006, Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2001 and most references under <i>Xanthomyza</i> therein, Morecombe 2003, Salomonsen 1967, Schodde 1975, Schodde & Mason 1999 and references under <i>Xanthomyza</i> therein, Schodde & Tidemann 1986, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Simpson & Day 1999, Stanger <i>et al.</i> 1998, Wolters 1975–82, references to <i>Xanthomyza</i> in the journal <i>Emu</i> since 1975	Regent Honeyeater (genus)
<i>Aplornis</i> Gould, 1/3 October 1836	<i>Aplonis</i> Gould, 1/3 October 1836	Amadon 1962, Beruldsen 2003, Blakers <i>et al.</i> 1984 and references under <i>Aplonis</i> therein, Christidis & Boles 1994, Clayton <i>et al.</i> 2006, Dickinson 2003, Garnett & Crowley 2000 and references under <i>Aplonis</i> therein, Gill & Wright 2006, Higgins <i>et al.</i> 2006 and references under <i>Aplonis</i> therein, Macdonald 1984, Morecombe 2003, Ovington 1978, RAOU Checklist Committee 1926, Schodde 1975, Schodde & Mason 1999 and references under <i>Aplonis</i> therein, Schodde & Tidemann 1986, Sibley & Monroe 1990, Simpson & Day 1999, Slater 1974, Stanger <i>et al.</i> 1998, Wolters 1975–82, references to <i>Aplonis</i> in the journal <i>Emu</i> since 1900	Glossy starlings (genus)



original *Zanthomiza* was employed throughout much of the first half of the 20th century in Australia, following endorsement by the RAOU Checklist Committee (1926). The current correction to *Xanthomyza* came from a decision of the SCON at the 12th IOC in Helsinki, in 1958, to request the Commission correct the spelling of several of Swainson's (1837) names for honeyeaters (Salomonsen 1960). The case was received by the Commission on 3 December 1965, but never proceeded to publication. The SCON reviewed the issue at the 23rd IOC, Beijing, in 2002, and found that the spelling *Xanthomyza* had by then come into 'prevailing use' as defined in the Code's Glossary and as justified in Table 1 herein. These circumstances invoke Art. 33.2.3.1, a ruling on spellings not considered by McAllan (2007), which deems *Xanthomyza* a 'justified emendation', with Swainson (1837) as author, after Salomonsen (1967). Thus the spelling *Xanthomyza* should be accepted as correct under the Code.

***Atricha* Gould, 1844** (January), is the senior but disused generic name for the Australian scrub-birds (Atrichornithidae) known today as *Atrichornis* Stejneger, 1885. Throughout the later 19th century into the 20th, however, its variant spelling *Atrichia* Gould, March 1844, had been used instead; this name was subsequently found to be invalid as a junior homonym of *Atrichia* Schrenk, 1803 (Insecta). *Atricha* itself, with no impediment in homonymy (Art. 56.2), remains available for the scrub-birds (Art. 12.2.6), even though it was used only once by Gould, in a newspaper report of the meeting at which he first described the Noisy Scrub-bird, now *Atrichornis clamosus* (Gould). In attempting to depose *Atricha* as disused, McAllan (2007) failed to satisfy Art. 23.9.1.2 and confounded his argument by suggesting that *Atrichia* Gould might be an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Atricha*. If it is, Art. 23.9.1.1 is breached as well, because *Atricha* Gould, in the incorrect subsequent spelling *Atrichia*, has been used as valid since 1899, e.g., in Campbell (1901) and in the journal *Emu* up to 1920; only after 1920 did use of *Atrichornis* Stejneger become entrenched.

This raises the question: should Gould names published first in newspapers (Bruce & McAllan 1990) be treated as of the same origin as those published subsequently in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* and Gould's folio, *The Birds of Australia*; or should they be treated as independent names that enter separately into synonymy and homonymy? If the former, different subsequent spellings in the *Proceedings* and folio, e.g. *Atrichia* Gould, become incorrect spellings; if the latter, *Atricha* Gould stands unused and deposable under Art. 23.9. We find the first interpretation to be correct because all names in newspapers, *Proceedings* and folio are linked by reference through to the same reading at the Zoological Society of London: the first are simply brief, preliminary notices of the impending formal description in the second and third. Accordingly, we have applied to the Commission for suppression of *Atricha* Gould, 1844 (Schodde & Bock, submitted, Case 3415).

***Aplornis* Gould, 1836a**, and *Aplonis* Gould, 1836b, are different spellings of the same generic name for the glossy starlings (Sturnidae) of south-east Asia and the western Pacific. In taking up the senior but disused *Aplornis* Gould, 1 or 3 October 1836, over the junior but almost universal *Aplonis* Gould, 18 October 1836, McAllan (2007) evidently treated *Aplonis* as a name of separate origin to *Aplornis*. As in the case of *Atricha* Gould and *Atrichia* Gould above, *Aplornis* and *Aplonis* were published respectively in an advance newspaper notice and a formal description in the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, drawn by reference from the one reading at the same meeting of the Society. *Aplonis* therefore becomes an incorrect subsequent spelling of *Aplornis*, controlled by Art. 33.3.1: 'when an incorrect subsequent spelling is in prevailing usage...the subsequent spelling ... is deemed ...correct...'. There can be no doubt that the spelling *Aplonis* is in prevailing use for the 24 species-strong genus of glossy starlings, being employed in virtually all current checklists, handbooks, atlases and field guides, global and regional, since Amadon (1962) and even Gould himself. Its usages that satisfy Art. 23.9.1.2 alone are given in Table 1. Thus it should be retained as correct under the Code, with Gould as author and 1 / 3 October 1836 as date (Gould 1836a).

***Psilopus albogularis* Gould, 1838**, vs. *Psilopus olivaceus* Gould, 1838. The species name *albogularis*, used for the common east Australian White-throated Gerygone through the 19th century and senior by choice of first reviser (Art. 24), was replaced by *olivacea* on misplaced grounds of page precedence early in the 20th, beginning with Stone (1913) and Mathews (1913). Nevertheless, *olivacea* has been used ever since the 1920s and employed in scores of journal papers as well as all major regional, national and international checklists, handbooks and field guides over almost the last 100 years.

There are other well-known names for Australian songbirds which, taken up by Mathews (1908, 1912) and the RAOU Checklist Committee (1926) on evident grounds of page precedence, are also junior to simultaneously published but disused synonyms through the action of earlier revisers (Art. 24). Those in Latham (1801), with the senior disused name first and the current in-use binomen last, are: (1) *Gracula picata* vs. *Corvus cyanoleucus* for the Magpie-lark *Grallina cyanoleuca* (Latham), Monarchidae, (2) *Gracula viridis* vs. *Coracias sagittata* for the Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* (Latham), Oriolidae, (3) *Muscicapa crepitans* vs. *Corvus olivaceus* for the Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus* (Latham), Eupetidae, (4) *Merops garrulus* vs. *Gracula melanocephala* for the Noisy Miner *Manorina melanocephala* (Latham), Meliphagidae, (5) *Muscicapa auricomis* vs. *Turdus melanops* for the Yellow-tufted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops* (Latham), Meliphagidae, and (6) *Certhia mellivora* vs. *Merops chrysopterus* for the Little Wattlebird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* (Latham), Meliphagidae. None of the senior names in each pair has been employed since the first decade or two of the 20th century; and returning to them following the precedent advocated by McAllan (2007) would destabilise the nomenclature of some common Australian songbirds.

Accordingly, we have applied to the Commission for suppression of the senior names, including *Psilopus albogularis* Gould, 1838 (Schodde & Bock submitted, Case 3418).

## Summary

For the 19 (not 18) names reviewed by McAllan (2007), corrections or qualifications are as follows. The first nine in-use but junior names (two generic, seven specific) in Table 1 are properly validated there over their respective senior but disused names under Arts. 23.9.1 and 23.9.2. The in-use spellings of the generic names *Xanthomyza* Swainson for the Australian Regent Honeyeater and *Aplonis* Gould for the west Pacific glossy starlings are acceptable as correct names under the provisions of Arts. 33.2 and 33.3. *Menura novaehollandiae* Latham is advisedly kept as senior to *Menura superba* Davies, with a publication date of 1801. For those seven disused or dubious senior names that cannot be invalidated under Art. 23.9 because of use in the 20th century, application has been made to the Commission for their suppression (Schodde & Bock submitted, Cases 3415, 3418). They are: *Columba norfolciensis* Latham of questionable identity, *picata* Latham for the Wonga Pigeon, *tranquilla* Gould for the Peaceful Dove (conditionally), *argetraea* J. R. Forster for the Norfolk Island fruit pigeon, *Pedionomus* Gould as the generic name for the Malleefowl, *Atricha* Gould as the generic name for the Australian scrub-birds, and *albogularis* Gould for the White-throated Gerygone. Under Art. 82, names in prevailing use are to be maintained in cases submitted to the Commission, pending decision.

We do not believe that McAllan's (2007) approach to nomenclatural change—that disruptions due to regulatory technicality should be 'worn' because they are fewer than those from taxonomic adjustment—should be endorsed for long-accepted, widely used names of genera and species. The two kinds of change are not comparable. Shifts due to investigative taxonomy, which the Code implicitly fosters (see Preamble), reflect developments in systematic knowledge and are part of progress in biological science; those due to nomenclatural regulation add to neither and may be contrary to Art. 23.2, the Preamble, and Principle 4 of the Introduction to the Code. Nomenclature functions to communicate, and its effectiveness depends on maximising stability: keeping the same name in the same spelling for the same taxon. We therefore encourage workers dealing in avian nomenclature to heed the Preamble of the Code and to use the ensuing provisions, including application to the Commission, to minimise disruptive change wherever reasonably possible.

The nomenclatural actions in this paper have been evaluated and approved by all responding members (ten) of the 12-member Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature (SCON) of the International Ornithological Committee.

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